

human activities such as channel dredging, trawl fishing, and offshore oil and gas activities.

The explosive removal of non-producing oil and gas structures in the Gulf of Mexico is monitored by Galveston Laboratory observers in order to prevent damage to protected species such as sea turtles



and marine mammals. The impact on the resident fish populations is assessed once the platform is removed.

Observers are also placed onboard vessels to



document the take of non-targeted and protected species by the trawl, longline, gill net, and trap fisheries. Alternative fishing gear to reduce this "bycatch" is also tested by Galveston Laboratory observers.

Free tours of the turtle rearing and rehabilitation facilities are conducted on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 2:00 p.m. To schedule a tour or obtain information about the facility call (409)766-3670. Visit our web site at <http://galveston.ssp.nmfs.gov> for more information about the laboratory.

